

Date: January 20, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark D. Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation
Subject: North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR) and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) Wireline Supplemental Agreement

Executive Summary

The N. C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has prepared project plans to install an over-height vehicle detection and advance warning signal for the N. C. Railroad Company (NCRR) and Ramseur Street overpasses on South Roxboro Street. The project is intended to prevent over-height vehicles from crashing into the bridges located just north of the Pettigrew Street intersection. The project plans require the City to relocate the power line feed to the City-maintained overpass lighting system installed in 2012. Since the wireline is within the NCRR corridor, a supplemental tripartite wireline agreement with NCRR and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) is required along with a \$200 filing fee. The signal improvement project is funded by NCDOT at an estimated cost of \$112,000. NCDOT expects construction to be completed within twelve months of obtaining all railroad permits.

Recommendation

The Transportation Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute Supplemental Wireline Agreement 1201118 with the North Carolina Railroad Company and Norfolk Southern Railway Company to modify the existing power line feed to the City's overpass lighting system. The current wireline agreement and recommended supplemental agreement are attached.

Background

In March of 2012, the City entered a tripartite wireline agreement with NCRR and NSR for the City to install a replacement lighting system for the Ramseur Street and railroad overpasses with Roxboro Street. The lighting system was completed in July 2012. In December 2013, NCDOT and City Transportation staff worked to develop a traffic signal design to provide an advance detection/warning system to alert drivers of over-height vehicles of the low-clearance bridges. While warning signs and clearance restrictions are clearly posted, trucks are frequently caught by the overpasses resulting in significant property damage and traffic delays. The proposed signal system upgrade will detect oncoming over-height vehicles via an infrared clearance detection system. When activated, an LED overhead blank-out sign will immediately illuminate the following message, "OVERHEIGHT MUST TURN." The warning message will remain illuminated for 60 seconds. Additionally, the traffic signal will turn red for northbound traffic to permit the over-height vehicle driver adequate time to read the message and follow a signed detour. The

advance warning system and traffic signal design was completed May 1, 2014. NCDOT identified and approved funds for project construction through the NCDOT Spot Safety Program funding system (Project #SS-4905BT).

Issues and Analysis

The construction of the traffic signal will present an unavoidable utility conflict with the power feed to the City's existing overpass lighting system. The design requires the lines be relocated with new conduit and junction box. The City's current tripartite wireline agreement with NCRR and NSR requires a supplemental agreement prior to any modifications to the lighting system conduit/conductor layout. With authorization by the City Council, the supplemental agreement can be executed by the City Manager. The field adjustments will be made by NCDOT in accordance the approved project plans.

Alternatives

- Authorize the City Manager to execute Supplemental Wireline Agreement 1201118 with NCRR and NSR to allow an adjustment to the power line feed to the City's overpass lighting system; or
- Not authorize the execution of the agreement and abandon the underpass lighting system.

Financial Impact

Construction of the traffic signal upgrade will be funded and constructed by NCDOT through the NCDOT Spot Safety Program at an estimated cost of \$112,000.00. The supplemental tripartite wireline agreement filing fee to NSR is \$200.00. This fee will be covered by the City Transportation Department's Traffic Operations Budget. There will be a \$1,000.00 required rider for NCRR/NS Railroad Protective Liability insurance policy.

SDBE Requirements

There are no SDBE requirements for this project.

Attachments

- A – NCRR/City of Durham/NSR Tripartite Wireline Agreement (3/9/12)
- B – Proposed Supplemental Wireline Agreement